

The Queries contained in the following Letter, having been sent to the *Universal Register*.—An Answer is subjoined.

T O T Y P O G R A P H I C U S.

S I R,

WHETHER your stile be real or affected bluntness, is no object to me, and I shall therefore answer your queries with fairness and candour, not doubting but you will give me credit for the truth of what I assert.

AS to your letters addressed to me, having been refused insertion in the other Papers, though it must appear partial and unjust to you, I am by no means surprised at it. I have found many of them avowed opponents, and for no other motive that I could ever discover, except the great service I have done the art of printing, which as it must immediately hurt, though ultimately benefit the professors, has raised many schemes against me, and the improvements I have brought forward.

I shall now, Sir, answer your queries.

1st. Query—Upon what grounds did you presume yourself entitled to the patronage of the public?

Answer—As the public is benefited by every improvement in arts and sciences, I consider them the natural encouragers, patrons, and protectors of such individuals, whose exertions of genius or labours of industry either promulge new arts, or perfect those already invented.

2d. Query—Who are the great persons from whom you expected encouragement?

Answer—The word public implies them all, but yet I will honestly confess, I looked forward for encouragement from the first character in the kingdom, not doubting but he, whom our constitution has so wisely appointed guardian of our lives, properties, and liberties, would support an improvement in the art of printing; particularly as it is an art upon the free exercise of which, every thing dear to an Englishman depends.

3d. Query—Have any men of genius and literature approved of your undertaking?

Answer—The practicability of printing by types of whole words instead of single letters, has been long an object of speculation among men of genius and literature. *Doctor Franklin* and many other men of science with whom I have had the honour to correspond upon the subject, gave me their approbation and advice, the former has made it his particular study; but without laying claim to genius, or boasting of literature, I am the first person who ventured to bring it into practice.

4th. Query—What were the impediments and oppressions under which you have suffered?

Answer—My letters recently published have pointed out several of them. Delicacy and prudence prevented my noticing many others. I have found opposition where I expected support; experienced neglect, where I had a right to expect friendship, and met with coolness where gratitude was my due. Among the printers my pursuits were ridiculed, every possible opposition was given to them, and in short, in every department of the profession, I had envy, jealousy, ignorance, folly and imposition to encounter.

5th. Query—What induced you to become a printer?

Answer—Necessity. Losses of extraordinary magnitude, attended by circumstances of the most distressing nature, which constrained me to quit my original business after twenty-seven years pursuit of it—the profits of which were annihilated by underwriting the commerce of the country, for want of ability in Government to protect its trade from the host of foes we had to contend with. I was farther induced by motives of independence, and the support of a numerous family; these stimulated me to prosecute the arduous task I have undertaken, which I doubt not will prove a national benefit. I trust you will deem these answers sufficient from

The Patentee of the Logographic Press.

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